

The University of California proactively launched in 2017 a comprehensive, multi-year effort to make further updates to our seismic safety program. This work is part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of the UC community. In the first part of this process, structural engineers have been re-evaluating the integrity of buildings within the UC system across California. The university is using the information from this current assessment to calculate revised seismic performance ratings, incorporating new knowledge from advances in geotechnical engineering, structural engineering, and seismology to better protect community members in an earthquake.

After the updated ratings on a substantial number of buildings are thoroughly evaluated and confirmed by engineers, each campus will start prioritizing and planning its retrofitting work to meet the location-specific needs. For buildings that may pose serious concerns following the validation of updated ratings, each campus will prepare action plans that may include retrofits or interim relocation as warranted. While the updated ratings are being assessed, previously planned upgrades will progress as the university continues to take appropriate safety measures.

University structures meet the applicable California Building Code in effect at the time of their construction and at the time of a seismic renovation. UC believes it is important to proactively upgrade its buildings to incorporate the best guidance, knowledge and science available to protect its community. The university will exceed state requirements through its proactive seismic updates. The critical upgrades during the next decade will take UC structures beyond what is currently required by the California Building Code. UC's Seismic Advisory Board, which is composed of independent structural and geotechnical engineers with seismic expertise, will continue to help advise the university's efforts.

The university is exploring sources of funding to help with building retrofits. A General Obligation (GO) Bond issue, if approved by California voters in March 2020, would provide some funds for seismic retrofit projects.

The university recognizes that seismic risk is a reality for all people and organizations in California, especially in light of recent earthquakes and the evolving research in this critical area. UC will continue to be proactive in protecting its community and the public at large.

--Claire Doan
University of California Office of the President